1	What is claimed is:
2	
3	1. A computer readable medium on which is embedded computer software, the software
4	comprising:
5	a base class that defines a parent-child relationship by which a child object is
6	stored within the storage space of its parent object;
7	an inline class, wherein the inline class is an extension of the base class and
8	wherein a member of the inline class is permitted to be a child object but prohibited from
9	being a parent object; and
10	a container class, wherein the container class is an extension of the base class and
11	wherein a member of the container class is permitted to be a child object and/or a parent
12	object;
13	whereby a well-formed document can be modeled in software using members of the inline
14	and/or container classes.
15	
16	2. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the document is a markup language
17	document.
18	
19	3. The computer readable medium of claim 2 wherein the markup language is selected
20	from the group consisting of HTML, XML, XHTML and SGML.
21	
22	4. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the software further comprises:
23	an extension of the inline class.
24	
25	5. The computer readable medium of claim 4 wherein the extension of the inline class
26	corresponds to a document item selected from a group consisting of comment text,
27	formatted text, embedded text, an image, an anchor, a paragraph marker, a line break and
28	a horizontal rule.
29	

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1	6. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the software further comprises:
2	an extension of the container class.
3	
4	7. The computer readable medium of claim 6 wherein the extension of the container class
5	corresponds to a document item selected from a group consisting of a bold text item, a
6	horizontally centered item, a table, a subdocument and a selection list.
7	
8	8. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the container class corresponds to a
9	document item in which other items can be nested.
10	
11	9. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the software further comprises:
12	an extension to an extension of the inline and/or container classes.
13	
14	10. A method for use in developing a document-producing computer program, the
15	method comprising the step of utilizing a set of classes, the set of classes comprising:
16	a base class that defines a parent-child relationship by which a child object is
17	stored within the storage space of its parent object;
18	an inline class, wherein the inline class is an extension of the base class and
19	wherein a member of the inline class is permitted to be a child object but prohibited from
20	being a parent object; and
21	a container class, wherein the container class is an extension of the base class and
22	wherein a member of the container class is permitted to be a child object and/or a parent
23	object.
24	
25	11. The method of claim 10 wherein the document is a markup language document.
26	
27	12. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the markup language is selected
28	from the group consisting of HTML, XML, XHTML and SGML.
29	
30	

1	13. The method of claim 10 wherein the set of classes further comprises:
2	an extension of the inline class.
3	
4	14. The method of claim 13 wherein the extension of the inline class corresponds to a
5	document item selected from a group consisting of comment text, formatted text,
6	embedded text, an image, an anchor, a paragraph marker, a line break and a horizontal
7	rule.
8	
9	15. The method of claim 10 wherein the set of classes further comprises:
10	an extension of the container class.
11	
12	16. The method of claim 15 wherein the extension of the container class corresponds to a
13	document item selected from a group consisting of a bold text item, a horizontally
14	centered item, a table, a subdocument and a selection list.
15	
16	17. The method of claim 10 wherein the container class corresponds to a document item
17	in which other items can be nested.
18	
19	18. The method of claim 10 wherein the set of classes further comprises:
20	an extension to an extension of the inline and/or container classes.
21	
22	19. The method of claim 10 wherein the utilizing step comprises:
23	linking to a library containing the set of classes; and
24	programmatically invoking an extension of the inline and/or container classes.
25	
26	20. A computer readable medium on which is embedded a document-producing computer
27	program, the computer program comprising a product of a method, the method comprising
28	the step of utilizing a set of classes, the set of classes comprising:
29	a base class that defines a parent-child relationship by which a child object is
30	stored within the storage space of its parent object;

an inline class, wherein the inline class is an extension of the base class and		
wherein a member of the inline class is permitted to be a child object but prohibited from		
being a parent object; and		
a container class, wherein the container class is an extension of the base class and		
wherein a member of the container class is permitted to be a child object and/or a parent		

6 object.